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A JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS of the House of Commons the last Session of PARLIAMENT

Beginning Jan. 7. Anno Dom. 1673.
And ending Feb. 24. 1673.

Containing all the publick Transactions Of the House of Commons.

To which are added four of the Grand Bills *Prepared to be enacted that Session.*

Printed at Rome
By the Especial command of his Holinesse, at the request of his Highnesse the Duke of YORK.

Anno Domini 1674.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

Printed at Rome.

JOURNAL, &c.

Die Mercurij 7. Januarij 1673.

The King by meſſage commanded this Houſe to attend him in the Houſe of Peers.

And accordingly Mr Speaker with the Houſe went up to attend his Matie, who, having made a ſpeech to both Houſes, was ſeconded by the Lord Keeper.

A Bill to prevent vexatious ſuits at Law was read and ordered a 2d reading.

The four grand Committees for Religion, Grievances, Trade, & Courts of Juſtice, appointed to ſit upon the uſuall days.

A generall order to iſſue out Writts for the electing new Members for the filling up all vacant places.

Severall petitions complaining of undue Returns made of divers Members to ſerve in this Houſe were read & referred to the Comtee of Elections.

And then Adjourned till Moonday morning 9. a clock.

Lunæ 12. Januarij 1673.

A petition to be preſented to his Matie for a generall Faſt, read & agreed, & the Lords concurrence to be deſired thereto.

The Lords by meſſage acquaint this Houſe that they had agreed to the ſaid Addreſſe, & appointed a Comtee to attend on his Matie, to know his pleaſure when he will be attended therewith.

The Houſe taking the Kings ſpeech into conſideration,

Reſolved, &c.

That the Houſe will in the firſt place proceed to have their grievances effectually redreſſed, the Proteſtant Religion, our Libertys & properties effectually ſecured, & to ſuppreſſe Popery, & remove all perſons & Councellours popishly-affected or otherwiſe obnoxious or dangerous to the Government.

The humble thanks of this Houſe to be returned to his Matie for thoſe Acts which he had done ſince the laſt prorogation, towards

the ſuppreſſing & diſcountenancing of Popery, & for his gracious promiſes & aſſurances in his laſt ſpeech.

An Addreſſe ordered to be preſented to his Matie, that the Militia of London & Middleſex may be in a readyneſs at an houre warning, & the Militia of all other Counties in England at a days warning, for the ſuppreſſing of all tumultuous Inſurrections that may be occaſioned by Papiſts, or any other mal-content perſons.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 8. a clock.

(I hope all our Deputy-Lievtenants of the Militia will take notice of this Addreſſe to his Matie for ſuppreſſing tumultuous inſurrections by Papiſts: for it is the opinion of many honeſt and ſober men that the Papiſts are at this time plotting and contriving againſt the Peace and Religion of the Nation, they being obſerved to meet frequently in great numbers, & to buy many horſes and Arms, &c.)

Martis 13. *January* 1673.

A Motion being made againſt the Duke of Lauderdale,

Reſolved, Nemine contradicente,

That an Addreſſe be preſented to the King to remove the Duke of Lauderdale from all his Employments, from his preſence & Councell for ever, being a perſon obnoxious & dangerous to the Government.

Some heads of Accuſation being ſpoken of in the Houſe againſt the Duke of Buckingham, & being in debate thereof, a Letter was ſent from the ſaid Duke directed to Mr. Speaker, requeſting to be heard before that Ho.ble Houſe: which was granted, & he admitted to be heard; & being withdrawn, & the contents of what he ſpoke debated, the further debate thereof was adjourned till to morrow.

The Houſe then went in a body to attend his Matie with the Addreſſe of this Houſe made yeſterday.

Mr. Speaker with the Houſe returning, Mr. Speaker reports that his Matie made this Anſwer, that he would take a ſpeciall care for the preſervation of their perſons as well as of their propertys & libertys.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning, 10. a clock.

Mer-

Mercury 14. *January* 1673.

The House falling upon the debate of the Duke of Buckingham, agreed several questions to be propounded to him, which are as follow, (viz.)

1. Whether any person have at any time declared to him any of their Advices, or ill purposes against the liberty of this House, or propounded any ways to him for altering our Government; & if they did, what was that advice, & by whom?

Duke of Yorks advice to take off some of the members heads that stood most for the good of the country.

2. By whose advice the Army was raised, & Papists set to Officer them, & Monsieur Schombergh to be their Generall?

3. Whether he knows that any have advised to make use of the Army to awe the debates & resolutions of this House?

4. By whose Councell & Ministry the Triple League was made?

5. And the first treaty with France, whereby it was broken & the Articles thereof?

6. And the orders of Assignment & credit of the Exchequer broken & destroyed?

7. And the declaration about matters of Religion made?

8. And the Smyrna-fleet fallen upon before warr declared?

9. And the 2d. Treaty with the French King at Utrecht & the Articles thereof?

10. By whose councell the warr was made without Advice of Parliament, & the Parliament thereupon prorogued?

11. By whose advice the Parliament was prorogued the 4th. of November last?

The Duke was thereupon called in, & having made Answer to the same, & being withdrawn;

The Houſe proceeding upon the further debate of the ſaid Duke, came to this reſolution (viz.)

That an Addreſſe be preſented to his Matie to remove the Duke of Buckingham from all his Employments that are held during his Maties pleaſure, & from his preſence & Councells for ever.

A Motion being made to bring in a petition againſt the Duke of Lauderdale, the Houſe agreed thereto.

And then the Houſe adjourned till to Morrow morning 10. *of the clock, & went in a body to attend his Matie with the petition & Addreſſe for the Faſt.*

Jovis 15. *Januarij* 1673.

Mr Speaker reports, that in Anſwer to their Addreſſe preſented yeſterday to his Matie, his Matie was pleaſed to return Anſwer, that he would appoint a day for a Faſt to be obſerved throughout all England.

A petition of the Lord OBryan read & referred to a Committee.

Leave given to the Lord St. John to bring in a bill concerning *Habeas Corpus*.

Severall Articles being delivered in & read againſt the Earle of Arlington & debated, & a Letter being alſo delivered in to Mr Speaker from the ſaid Earle, & read, deſiring to be heard in the Houſe; The Houſe agreed thereto: And being admitted, & having ſpoke what he had to ſay, & having made Anſwer to ſeverall queſtions agreed by the Houſe to be propoſed to him; & being withdrawn, & the Houſe falling upon the further debate, adjourned the ſame till to Morrow, 10. of the clock.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. *a clock.*

Veneris 16. *Januarij* 1673.

The Houſe then reſumed the debate of the Lord Arlington, & read the Articles exhibited againſt him, which are as follow, (viz.)

Articles of treaſonable & other Crimes of high miſdemeanour againſt the Earle of Arlington principall Secretary of State.

I. That

I. That the ſaid Earle hath been a conſtant & moſt vehement promoter of Popery & Popiſh Councells.

1. By procuring Commiſſions forall the Papiſts lately in Command, who made their applications to him onely, as a known Favourer of that faction: there being not one Commiſſion ſigned by the other Secretary: Many of which Commiſſions were procured & ſigned by him ſince the ſeverall Addreſſes of the Two Houſes of Parliament to his Matie, & the paſſing the late Act againſt Popery.

2. By Procuring his Maties Letter commanding Iriſh Papiſts & Rebels to be let into Corporations & Commiſſions of the peace, & other offices of truſt Military & Civill, contrary to the eſtabliſhed Laws & Conſtitutions of that Realm, to the great terrour of the Kings Proteſtant Subjects there.

3. By not onely ſetting up & ſupporting the aforeſaid Papiſts there, but bringing in the moſt violent & fierceſt of them to command Companies & Regiments of the Kings Engliſh Subjects here, to the great diſhonour & danger of the Kingdom.

4. By openly & avowedly entertaining & lodging in his family a Papiſt-Prieſt contrary to the known Laws of the Land, which ſaid Prieſt was a noted Solliciter & Promoter of the Popiſh faction, & hath ſince fled out of this Kingdom.

5. By procuring penſions in other mens names for Papiſt-Officers, contrary to & in illuſion of the late Act of Parliament.

6. By obtaining ſeverall Grants of conſiderable ſums of money to be charged upon the revenue of Ireland for the moſt violent & pernicious Papiſts there, particularly 2000 pounds for one Coll. Fitz-Patrick a notorious Iriſh Papiſt, whoſe Mother was hanged in the late warr for murthering ſeverall Engliſh & making Candles of their fatt: this Grant being procured for the ſaid Fitz-Patrick at a time when he was accuſed to the ſaid Lord Arlington of high Crimes by the now Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

7. By procuring his Matie to releaſe to ſeverall Iriſh Papiſts (ſome whereof were deeply engaged in the horrid rebellion of that Kingdom) the Chiefaties or head-rents reſerved to the Crown out of the forfeited Eſtates of Papiſts, that being a principall part of his Maties revenue in that Kingdom.

II. That

II. That the ſaid Earle hath been guilty of many undue practices to promote his own greatneſs, & hath imbeazelled & waſted the treaſure of this Nation.

1. By procuring vaſt & exorbitant Grants for himſelf both in England & Ireland, breaking in to the ſettlement of that Kingdom, & diſpoſſeſſing ſeverall Engliſh Adventurers & Soldiers of their proprieties and freeholds, in which they were duely & legally ſtated without any colour of reaſon or ſuggeſtion of right.

2. By charging exceſſive & almoſt incredible ſums for falſe and deceitfull Intelligence.

3. By procuring his Maties hand for the giving away, from his firſt entrance in to his Office, the value of 3. Millions of Sterling money at the leaſt; the ſeverall Grants whereof are extant Counterſigned by him & by him onely.

4. That the ſaid Earle preſuming to trample upon all Eſtates & Degrees of the ſubjects of this Realm, & the better to ſubdue them to his will & pleaſure, hath cauſelly & illegally impriſoned many of his Maties ſubjects.

5. That he did procure a principall Peer of this Realm to be unjuſtly impriſoned, & to be proclaimed Traytor without any legall proceeding or Tryall; & did malicioully ſuborn falſe Witneſſes to take away his life upon pretence of treaſonable words.

III. That the ſaid Earle hath falſly & traiterouſly betrayed the great truſt repoſed in him by his Matie as Councellour & principall Secretary of State.

1. By entertaining a more then uſuall intimacy which the French Ambaſſador; not only Lodging him in his Houſe, but letting him in to the Kings moſt ſecret Councells.

2. By altering in private & ſingly by himſelf ſeverall ſolemn determinations of his Maties Councells.

3. By procuring a ſtranger to have the chief command of the late raiſed Army for Invaſion of Holland, to the great diſhonour & diſcouragement of all the Loyall Nobility & Gentry of this Nation.

4. By adviſing his Matie to admitt of a ſquadron of French Ships to be joyned with our Engliſh Fleet (the ſad conſequences whereof we have ſince felt) Notwithſtanding the French King had agreed

agreed to ſend a ſupply of money in order to having the Fleet wholly Engliſh.

5. Whereas the King was adviſed by ſeverall of his Councell to preſſe the French King to deſiſt from making any further progreſſe in his Conqueſt of the Inland Towns of Holland whereof England was to have no benefit, & to turn his Army upon thoſe Maritime Towns that were by the Treaty to have been ours; His Lo pp gave the King Councell to deſiſt; whereby that part of our expectation was wholly fruſtrate.

6. Whereas the King was adviſed by ſeverall of his Councell not to enter into this warr till his Maty was out of debt, & had adviſed with his Parliament: His Lo.pp was of opinion to the contrary, & gave his advice accordingly.

7. When the French Ships were diſperſed after the late fight at ſea, & had loſt all their Anchors & Cables by reaſon of the foul weather that then enſued, he perſwaded his Matie to ſend them 80. Cables & Anchors; Although it was then objected, & he knew it to be true, that his Matie had not at that preſent time any more in his ſtores to ſupply his own Ships in caſe of like neceſſity.

8. He hath traiterouſly correſponded with the Kings Enemies beyond the ſeas, &, contrary to the truſt repoſed in him, hath given Intelligence to them.

And the Houſe having debated the ſame, adjourned the further debate thereof till to Morrow morning 10. of the clock.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. of the clock.

Sabbathi 17. Januarij 1673.

A Comittee appointed to bring in a Bill for the better repair of Churches, & the collecting of ſmall Tythes.

The Houſe proceeding upon the debate touching the Lord Arlington; & one Capt. Paulin being called in, touching the proof of the laſt Article, which was,

That the ſaid Earle hath falſly & traiterouſly betrayed the great truſt repoſed in him by his Matie as Councellour and principall Secretary of State.

And being withdrawn, the House proceeded not upon the said Article, but took the Articles in order into consideration as they lay; & severall of them being debated, the further consideration was adjourned till Moonday morning 10. of the clock.

Severall of the Members appointed to go along with the Lieutenant of the Tower to view the Warrants of Commitment of Sr Thomas Muddiford & his son, & of their Release, & also of the Herefordshire Priest, & the Warrants of Commitment of Mr Dawton & Overskelt.

And then Adjourned till Moonday morning, 9. a clock.

Lunæ 19. January 1673.

A Comittee appointed to inspect the old Laws, & to prepare & bring in a Bill for the better repairing of High-waies.

The House proceeded upon the Articles of Impeachment against the Earle of Arlington, & after long debate adjourned the same till to Morrow morning 10. of the clock.

And then the House adjourned till to Morrow 9. a clock.

Martis 20. January 1673.

A Bill touching writs of *Habeas Corpus* read & ordred a 2d reading.

A Comittee appointed to inspect the Act for laying Impositions on proceedings at Law, & to bring in a Bill to explain such Clauses as are doubtfull therein.

And the same Comittee to do the like in the Acts concerning Hearth-money.

The House then proceeded on the debate of the Lord Arlington.

The question being put

That an Addresse be presented to his Matie to remove the Earle of Arlington from all his Employments that are held during his Maties pleasure, & from his presence & Councells for ever.

The House was divided

For the *Yea's* —— 127.

For the *No's* —— 166.

And so it passed in the Negative.

Resolved, &c. That

That a Comittee be appointed to conſider of the ſaid Articles; & report what matter is therein contained & can be proved, that is fit for an Impeachment.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. a clock.

Mercurij 21. Januarij 1673.

A Bill for continuing 2. former Acts for preventing of Theft & Rapine upon the Northern borders, read, & ordred a 2d reading.

A Comittee appointed to peruſe the Bills which were depending laſt ſeſſions, & to repreſent them that are moſt neceſſary.

The ſame Comittee to inſpect ſuch Acts as are Temporary, & conſider which are fit to be continued, or repealed.

A Bill to prevent vexations by ſuits at Law, read a 2d time, & committed.

A Comittee appointed for preparing a Bill one or more for a generall Teſt to diſtinguiſh between Proteſtants & Papiſts, & to prevent the danger & further growth of Popery, & for the more eaſy conviction of Popiſh Recuſants, & thoſe that ſhall refuſe to take it, be incapable to enjoy any Office Military or Civill, or to ſit in either Houſe of Parliament, or to come within 5. miles of the Court.

A petition of ſeverall Maſters of Ships inhabiting in & about the City of London, on behalf of themſelvs & others uſing the Newcaſtle Trade, & other parts, read, & referred to a Comittee, who are to inſpect the Laws which relate to the impreſſing of Seamen, & to hear ſuch complaints as ſhall be offered of any Abuſes committed in the preſſing of men for the Sea.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. a clock.

Jovis 22. Januarij 1673.

Leave given to bring in a Bill for uniting Pariſhes, & providing a maintenance for Miniſters within the City of Exeter.

A Comittee appointed to aſſiſt Mr Speaker in collecting the ancient orders of the Houſe, for the decently & orderly ſitting & governing of the Houſe.

A Comittee appointed to bring in one or more Bill or Bills for the regulating of the elections of Members to ſerve in Parliament, for the better aſcertaining of the Returns of Members to be elected, & for the better attendance of ſuch as are elected & returned: & upon the other debates of the Houſe.

Reſolved,

That the Houſe will on Saturnday next reſolve into a Comittee of the whole Houſe, to conſider of the State & condition of the Nation, & the grievances occaſioned by reaſon of the warr, & to Report the ſame with their opinions therein to the Houſe.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. of the clock.

Veneris 23. Januarij 1673.

An Additionall bill for Sherriffs, & eaſe of Juſtices of the peace read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Comittee appointed to prepare & bring in a Bill or Bills for paveing & maintaining the ſtreets of the City of London, & enabling the City to perfect & go through with the rebuilding of Churches, & ſuch other publique works as are enjoined by Act of Parliament.

The ſame Comittee to prepare & bring in a Bill for reſtraining any further new buildings in all places within the bills of Mortality, except the City of London & the libertys thereof.

A Bill for relief of the ſubject by writts of *Habeas Corpus* read a 2d time & committed.

A Bill for uniting Pariſhes, & providing a maintenance for Miniſters within the City of Exeter, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. a clock.

Sabbathi 24. Januarij 1673.

The Bill to prevent Theſts & Rapins on the Northern borders read a 2d time & committed.

A Bill to prevent Moor-burnings in ſeverall Counties read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Bill for explaining the Clauſe in the Law-bill touching Recognizances reported.

A meſſage from the King by the Uſher of the Black Rod commanding this Houſe to attend him immediately in the Houſe of Peers.

The Houſe returning, Mr. Speaker reports the Kings ſpeech, & likewiſe delivered in Copies of the Memorials from the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors propoſalls of the Dutch in order to a treaty; which were read; the Conſideration whereof was adjourned till Moonday morning 10. of the clock.

And then Adjourned till Moonday morning 9. of the clock.

Lunæ 26. Januarÿ 1673.

Leave given to bring in a Bill againſt Simoniacall Contracts.

A Bill for explaining a Clauſe in a former Act, & for the better aſcertaining the duty upon proceedings at Law, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Bill for Sherriffs, & for the better paſſing Sherriffs Accounts was read a 2d time & committed.

A Petition of Mr Muddiford in complaint of Sr John Robinſon, read, & ordered to be heard on Saturnday next.

Leave given to bring in a Bill to prevent the tranſportation of perſons priſoners beyond the ſeas; & that no perſons be impriſoned but in lawfull priſons.

The Houſe proceeding to the conſideration of his Maties ſpeech, And the queſtion being put, That the queſtion be now put, whether the Houſe before they proceed in the further conſideration of his Maties ſpeech, will make an Addreſſe to his Matie, to be informed whether the Advice that is expected, is to relate to a ſeparate or joynt peace:

It paſſed in the Negative.

The Houſe will to Morrow morning proceed in the further conſideration of his Maties ſpeech.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. of the clock.

Martis 27. Januarÿ 1673.

A Bill for the preſervation of the piſcary in the Rivers of Severn, Avon, & Tame, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Bill to prevent the imprisonment of the Subjects in illegall prisons, or sending them to prisons beyond the seas, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

The House then resolved into a Comittee of the whole House, to proceed in the further consideration of his Maties last speech, & came to this Resolution (viz.)

That upon consideration of his Maties gracious speech, & the proposalls of the States Generall of the United Provinces, this House is of opinion, that his Matie be advised to proceed in a Treaty with the said States Generall in order to a speedy peace.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. a clock.

Mercurÿ 28. Januarÿ 1673.

A Bill for relief of poor prisoners, read, & ordered a 2d. reading.

A Bill for Augmentation of small Viccarages, & against Simoniacall Contracts, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

Ordered,

Upon the petition of the Loyall Indigent Officers, two Members of this House ordered to attend the Lord Chief Baron, & desire him to give order for speeding the matter of Sr John Bennetts Accounts.

The House entring upon the debate of the vote made yesterday;

Resolved,

That the Consideration of the matter upon the vote for an Addresse to be made to his Matie be adjourned till to Morrow 10. of the clock.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. a clock.

Jovis 29. Januarÿ 1673.

A Comittee appointed to bring in a Bill for the regulating & ascertaining the measures of Coals, & to prevent frauds & abuses in the sale of wood, & abuses against the late Act in the measures of corn.

The humble thanks of this House ordered to be returned to his Matie for his gracious speech; & the concurrence of the Lords to be desired therein; & to the vote of this House of advice to his Matie.

A

A Bill to prevent the imprisonment of the Subjects in illegall & secret prisons, in places beyond the seas, read a 2d time & committed.

The Lords by message sent down a vote of advice to be prefented to his Matie, to which they desire the concurrence of this House, which is as followeth (viz.)

That upon consideration of his Maties gracious speech, & the whole matter now before them, they are of opinion, that his Matie be humbly advised to proceed in a Treaty with the States Generall of the United Provinces, in order to a speedy peace.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. of the clock.

Sabbathi 31. *Januarij* 1673.

A Petition of the Burgesses of Newark, also a petition of the Inhabitants read, & both referred to a Comittee to consider the matter, & report their opinions therein.

The House ordered to be called over on Moonday 3. weeks.

A Comittee appointed to consider of the Ancient rules of the House, & by what means the Members may be compelled to give their better Attendance.

Such Members of this House as are of his Maties privy Councell ordered to attend his Matie, to know his pleasure when he will be attended with the vote concerning the Duke of Lauderdale.

The debate of the matter upon the vote which relates to the Duke of Buckingham, whether the concurrence of the Lords be desired therein, adjourned till Thorsday next.

And then Adjourned till Thorsday morning 9. a clock.

Martis 3. *February* 1673.

A Bill to prevent Imprisonment of Subjects in secret prisons, reported, & ordered to be Ingrossed.

A Bill to prevent Moor-burnings in severall Northern Counties read a 2d time & Committed.

A Bill for regulating & ascertaining the duty upon Hearth-money, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

His

His Matie hath appointed Thorſday next 3. of the clock to be attended with the vote of this Houſe concerning the Duke of Lauderdale.

The Houſe proceeding to the conſideration of the vote of advice to his Matie ſent from the Lords, a Conference was deſired thereupon, & being had,

The Lords afterwards ſent down to deſire another conference, where they declared they had fully agreed to the vote ſent down from their Lo.pps to this Houſe on Thorſday laſt, with the omitting of theſe words *(upon the whole matter)* & inſerting theſe words *(and Commons)*

A Comittee appointed to examin the matter between Sr Thomas Bide & the Officers of the Greencloath touching the commitment of Sr Thomas Bide, & that particularly concerning the Goldſmiths.

And then Adjourned till Thorſday 9. of the clock.

Jovis 5. Februarij 1673.

Leave given to bring in a Bill for paveing the ſtreets, & erecting a Work-houſe or Almſhouſe in the town of Portſmouth, & raiſing money for that purpoſe.

A Bill for uniting Pariſhes, & raiſing a maintenance for Miniſters within the City of Exeter, was read the 2d time & committed.

A Bil for a Teſt to diſtinguiſh between Proteſtants & Papiſts, read, & ordred a 2d reading to Morrow morning.

The Houſe then proceeded in the debate of the vote relating to the Duke of Buckingham, whether the concurrence of the Lords be deſired therein, & upon the queſtion,

It paſſed in the Negative.

The Houſe ordered to attend his Matie with the vote of Addreſſe which relates to the Duke of Buckingham; & the Members of this Houſe that are of his Maties Privie Councell to know his pleaſure, when he will be attended therewith.

Mr Speaker upon the attendance of this Houſe this afternoon upon his Matie, is ordered to return the thanks of this Houſe to his Matie for his laſt gracious ſpeech.

The

The House will on Saturnday next resolve into a Grand Comittee to consider of the grievances of the Nation.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. a clock.

Veneris 6. Februarij 1673.

A Bill to prevent exportation of wooll out of England & Ireland, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Bill to prevent illegall exacting money from the Subject, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Bill for a Test to distinguish between Protestants & Papists committed.

Mr. Speaker reports from the King, that, according to the order of the House, he had attended his Matie with the vote of thanks, also with the vote relating to the Duke of Lauderdale, to which his Matie answered, that he would reconsider of it & return a speedy Answer.

His Majty never returned any answer.

And the Lord Keeper had delivered the vote of advice of both Houses, to which his Matie, answered, That he could not better thank them for their advice, than by following it, which he should endeavour, & doubted not of their assistance to enable him to perform it.

His Matie hath appointed this afternoon to be attended with the vote touching the Duke of Buckingham.

An Addresse to be presented to his Matie, to desire him to appoint some persons to bring the Duke of Norfolck safe into England, & the concurrence of the Lords to be desired thereto.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. of the clock.

Sabbathi 7. Februarij 1673.

A Bill for relief of poor Prisoners for debt, read the 2d time, & severall debates arising thereupon relating to matters not contained in the Bill (viz.) to provide to set poor prisoners on work, & to prevent frauds in such as are able to pay, in making over their E-

ſtates in truſt to defraud Creditors; It is referred to a Comittee to conſider the ſeverall debates, & to bring in a Bill thereupon.

The Bill to prevent the imprifonment of the ſubjects in illegall priſons paſſed.

The Houſe then reſolved into a Comittee of the whole Houſe to take into conſideration the grievances of the Nation, & came to this Reſolution.

Reſolved, &c.

That the continuing of any ſtanding Forces in this Nation, other than the Militia, is a great grievance & vexation to the people.

And that it is the humble petition of this Houſe to his Matie, that he will immediately cauſe to be diſbanded that part of them that were raiſed ſince the firſt of January 1663.

Mr Speaker reports, that the King had made this Anſwer to the vote of this Houſe relating to the Duke of Buckingham, that he would take it into conſideration.

The Houſe to reſolve into a Comittee of the whole Houſe again on Weddenſday next 10. of the clock.

And then Adjourned till Moonday morning 9. a clock.

Lunæ 9. February 1673.

A Bill for repair of Churches, & better recovery of ſmall Tythes read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Bill for aſcertaining the powers & fees in the Patents of the Judges, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Bill to prevent illegall exaction from the Subject read a 2d time & Committed.

A Bill for the regulating the Tryall of the Peers of England was ſent from the Lords.

The Houſe to attend his Matie, to Morrow at 3. of the clock with the vote of this Houſe concerning the Army.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. of the clock.

Martis 10. February 1673.

A Bill for the better aſcertaining the Diſpoſition upon proceedings at Law read a 2d time & committed. It

It is ordered that theſe words, *& wee doe make it our humble requeſt to your Matie that thoſe forces that came lately out of Ireland may not continue in Arms in England*, may be added to the vote to be delivered from the Houſe to his Matie this afternoon.

And then Adjourned till 3. a clock in the Afternoon.

Mercurij 11. *Februarij* 1673.

Mr Speaker Reports, that he had delivered the vote for the diſbanding of the Army to his Matie: to which his Matie anſwered, that he would take it into a ſpeedy conſideration, & give the Houſe an Anſwer which he is confident will ſatisfie them.

An Additionall Bill for paveing the ſtreets of the City of London read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A meſſage from his Matie by the Uſher of the Black-Rod, commanding this Houſe to attend him immediately in the Houſe of Peers.

Mr Speaker with the Houſe went up accordingly to attend his Matie, where his Matie ſpoke to this effect.

My Lords & Gentlemen,

In purſuance of your Advice, I have made a ſpeedy and honourable, &, I hope, a laſting peace with the Dutch, which is ſigned.

As to your Addreſſe for the diſbanding of the Forces, I have ſince the peace made with the Dutch given order for diſbanding them; Nay, I have ordered to diſband more then you deſired.

As for your Addreſſe about the Iriſh Regiments, I have ordered to ſend them back into Ireland.

But I muſt needs acquaint you, that there is a great want of Capitall Ships; & I would be glad to be equall in number with my Neighbours; & I hope I ſhall have your aſſiſtance upon ſo good an occaſion to preſerve the honour & ſafety of this Nation.

To what ends has his Matie the Cuſtoms?

The humble & hearty thanks of this House to be returned to his Matie, for his making a speedy peace; & for his gracious Answer to the Addresse of the House concerning the standing Forces; & the Members of this House that are of his Maties Privy Councell to attend his Matie, to know his pleasure when he will be attended therewith.

The House then resolved into a Grand Comittee, to take into further consideration the Grievances of the Nation; & agreed a vote, which is as followeth.

That a Comittee be appointed to inspect the Laws lately made in Scotland, whereby an Army is authorized to march into England or Ireland; & such other Laws as do tend to the breach of the Union of the two Nations; & to report the same to the House, & produce the books.

The House on Fryday next to resolve again into a Grand Comittee to proceed on the said consideration.

The Report of Sr John Bennetts Accounts in the Exchequer was made, & the debate thereof was adjourned till to morrow.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. of the clock.

Jovis 12. Februarij 1673.

Severall Bills brought in about private affairs, &c.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. a clock.

Veneris 13. Februarij 1673.

A Bill to prevent exportation of Wool, ordered to be read on Moonday morning after 10. of the clock.

A Bill for the ascertaining the powers & fees in the Patents for Judges, read a 2d time & committed.

A Bill for continuing two former Acts to prevent Theft & Rapine upon the Northern borders, Reported & ordered to be Ingrossed.

The House to attend the King this afternoon with their vote of thanks.

The further consideration of the grievances of the Nation adjourned till to Morrow morning 10. of the clock.

And then Adjourned till 4. in the afternoon.

Sabbathi 14. Februarij 1673.

A Petition of the Woollen Drapers of Eſſex, Suffolck, Hertford & other Counties, complaining of abuſes in collecting the duty of Aulnage, was read, & a Comittee to bring in a Bill to prevent the Abuſes therein.

The Houſe then reſolved into a Comittee of the whole Houſe to take into conſideration the Grievances of the Nation, & came to this Reſolution (viz)

That the Houſe be moved to appoint a Comittee to inſpect the Laws, & conſider how the King may Commit any Subject by his immediate Warrants, as the Law now ſtands: & report the ſame to the Houſe.

The ſame Comittee to conſider how the Law now ſtands touching Comittments of perſons by the Councell-table, & report the ſame, to which the Houſe Agreed.

The Houſe will on Weddenſday next take into conſideration the eſtate & condition of the Kingdom of Ireland.

And then Adjourned till Moonday 9. a clock.

Luna 16. Februarij 1673.

A Bill for aſcertaining the meaſures of Coals & wood, read, & ordered 2d reading.

A Bill for regulating Elections read a 2d time & committed.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. of the clock.

Martis 17. Februarij 1673.

A Bill concerning writts of *Habeas Corpus* Reported, & ordered to be Ingroſſed.

A Report concerning the Earle of Arlington being made, & the Houſe proceeding upon the debate thereof,

Ordered,

That it be recommitted to the former Comittee to proceed upon the Articles againſt the Earle of Arlington, head by head, & Report

port particularly to the Houſe what proofs or Inducements ſhall be offered to the Comittee, fit for an Impeachment upon every head of the ſaid Articles.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. of the clock.

Mercurÿ 18. *Februarÿ* 1673.

The Bill to prevent the exportation of wooll, read a 2d time & committed.

The Bill for the better Attendance of Members of the Commons-Houſe in Parliament, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

The Bill for explaining the former Acts, & for the better collecting the duty of Hearth-money, read a 2d time & Committed.

The Houſe then reſolved into a Comittee of the whole Houſe to proceed upon the debate of the ſtate & condition of the Kingdom of Ireland.

And are to be in a Comittee again on Fryday next to proceed further therein.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. of the clock.

Jovis 19. *Februarÿ* 1673.

The Bill for eaſe of Sherriffs, & for the better paſſing their Accounts reported, & ordered to be Ingroſſed.

And Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. of the clock.

Veneris 20. *Februarÿ* 1673.

Leave given to bring in a Bill for erecting a Court of Conſcience within the City of Weſtminſter & the liberties thereof, for the better Government of the poorer ſort of people.

Leave given to bring in a Bill or Bills for erecting a Court of Conſcience within the Borough of Southwark, & other places within the Bills of Mortality which are not in the City of London.

The Houſe then reſolved into a Grand Comittee, to take into conſideration the ſtate & condition of the Kingdom of Ireland, & came to theſe Reſolutions, (viz)

That

That a Comittee be appointed to inſpect the ſtate & condition of the Revenue of Ireland, & report the ſame with their opinions therein to the Houſe.

That the ſame Comittee do conſider of the ſtate of the Religion, & the Militia & Forces of that Kingdom, & examin the matter of fact, & report the ſame with their opinions to the Houſe, how the ſame may be beſt ſecured, as ſpeedily as they may.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow 9. a clock.

Sabbathi 21. Februarij 1673.

The Bill to prevent illegal exacting money from the ſubject Reported, & ordered to be Ingroſſed.

The ingroſſed Bill concerning *Habeas Corpus* was delivered in, & read, & the debate thereof adjourned till Moonday morning.

And then Adjourned till Moonday morning 9. of the clock.

Lunæ 23. Februarij 1673.

An ingroſſed Bill for the ſpeedy relief of Priſoners detained for Criminall matters, read a 3d time, & paſſed.

The Bill for aſcertaining the duty upon proceedings at Law Reported, & ordered to be ingroſſed.

A Bill for erecting a Court of Conſcience within the City of Weſtminſter & liberties thereof, read, & ordered a 2d Reading.

A Bill from the Lords for the better regulating the tryalls of Peers, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

A Bill for a Teſt to be taken by the Members of both Houſes, read, & ordered a 2d reading.

The calling over the Houſe adjourned till this day ſeveannight.

And then Adjourned till to Morrow morning 9. of the clock.

Martis 24. Februarij 1673.

A Petition of ſeverall Brewers & Diſtillers of the City of London was read, & in purſuance thereof a Bill ordered to be brought in to prevent the importation of Brandy.

A Bill for erecting a Work-house within the City of Exeter read, & ordered a second reading.

A message came from his Maty by the Usher of the Black-Rod, commanding this House to attend him in the House of Peers, where his Matie spake to this effect (viz)

My Lords & Gentlemen,

When I was here last, I told you, the peace was signed, I am now come to tell you that it is ratified, & I hope it will prove a happy & a lasting peace to both Nations: This & the spring coming on so fast, it will be convenient for you to be in your Countrey both for your own business & mine: I therefore think fit to make a recesse at this time; the Winter being more convenient for business: in the mean time I will do my endeavour to satisfie the world of my stedfastnes for securing the Protestant Religion as its now establish ed, and your propertys: & I desire that you in your severall Counties will endeavour to satisfie the people therewith. I have no more to say at this time, but that I have commanded my Lord Keeper to prorogue the Parliament to the 10. of November next.

And Accordingly the Lord Keeper prorogued both Houses to that time.

Some proceedings before the Comittee touching Preſſing Souldiers.

No man ſhall be compelled to go out of his Shire, but onely for cauſe of neceſsity of ſuddain coming of ſtrange Enemies into the Realm, & then to be don as in former times uſed for the defence of the Realm. 1. Ed. 3 cap. 5.

No man ſhall be conſtrayned to find men of arms, Hoblers, nor Archers, other than thoſe which hold by ſuch ſervice, if not by common conſent, & grant made in Parliament. 25. Ed 3. c. 8.

Indentures & Covenants to ſerve to be returned into the Exchequer. 5. R. 2. c. 10.

Theſe ſtatutes confirmed by the 4. H. 4. cap. 13. whereby are excepted all ſervices by tenure or grant: Hen. 5. *in his warrs proceeded to raiſe men by Covenant & Indenture, as appears* 2. H. 6. cap. 5.

Sets forth the manner of reteyner, & the wages to be paid by the Captain. 18. H. 6. c. 18.

Makes it felony for a ſouldier retayned as aforeſaid & entred upon the Muſter-Roll to depart without licence. 18. H. 6 c. 19.

Hereby it appears that Captains with their Souldiers were reteyned to ſerve as well at ſea as land, & provides, that if any ſouldier immediately reteyned with the King, which hereafter ſhall be in wages, & reteyned or take any preſt-money to ſerve the King upon the ſeas or upon the land beyond the ſeas, & depart without licence, it is felony, and by this ſtatute the reteyner is traverſable. 7. H. 7. cap. 1.

Declared that the Statute of H. 6. *for ſouldiers did extend to Mariners & Gunners taking wages of the King or Queen; And enacts in favour of Fiſhermen & Mariners hanting the ſea as Fiſhermen & Mariners, that none of them ſhall be compelled againſt his or their will to ſerve as any ſouldier upon the land or ſea, otherwiſe then as a Marriner, unleſſe to ſerve for ſome ſpeciall exploit for landing as Mariners uſe to do, or in caſe of invaſion of Enemys, or ſubduing rebellion within the Realm, & except perſons bound to ſerve by tenure, lawfull cuſtome or Covenant or otherwiſe.* 5. Eliz. cap. 1.

17. Car. 1. cap. 5. The L^d. Admirall &c. may raiſe & impreſſe Mariners, ſaylers & others for preſent guards of the ſeas & neceſſary defence of the Realm. This Act is expired, And cap. 23. the like Act, cap. 26. the like, cap. 28. for the better rayſing & levying ſouldiers for the preſent defence of the Kingdoms of England & Ireland.

That all Commiſſions for compelling any ſubject to take preſſe-money, or to ſerve either by ſea or land againſt his Free-will, but onely for cauſe of neceſsity of ſuddain coming of ſtrange Enemys into this Realm, are illegall. The Vote of the Committee, never Reported to the Houſe.

An Act for Relief of Persons from Imprisonment by Writts of Habeas Corpus.

Whereas by the Laws of this Realm, when any Subject is imprisoned by any Warrant or Warrants of any person or Courts whatsoever, a Writ of *Habeas Corpus* ought to be forthwith granted out of the Courts of Kings Bench, or Common Pleas, to be directed generally and to all and every Sheriff, Gaoler, Minister, Officer or other person in whose custody the person so committed or restrained shall be, upon due & convenient notice thereof given unto him, at the charge of the party who requesteth & procureth such Writt, to bring or cause to be brought the body of the said party so committed or restrained unto & before the Judges & Justices of the said Court from whence the said Writt shall issue, in open Court, & shall like wise certifie the true cause of such his detainer or Imprisonment, as by the Laws & statutes made in that behalf may more fully & at large appear: Nevertheless many of the said Officers not regarding their duty, take upon them to stand out an *Alias & pluries Habeas Corpus* & sometimes more, before they bring in the body of the party so committed to his or their custody, to the great charges & vexation of his Maties good subjects, and against the laws in that case made & provided. For the prevention whereof, Be it Enacted by the Kings most excellent Matie, by & with the advice & consent of the Lords spirituall & temporall & Commons in this present Parliament assembled, & by the authority thereof, that whensoever any person or persons shall bring an *Habeas Corpus* directed unto any Sherriff or Sherriffs, Gaoler, Minister, Officer or other person whatsoever, for any person in his or their custody, or that was committed to his or their custody or custodys, And the said Writt shall be served upon the said Officer, or left at the Gaol or prison with any of the under-Officers, under-Keepers, or Deputy, the servants or under-Officers or Keepers of the said Officer or Officers, That the said Officer or Officers his or their under-Officers under-Keepers or Deputy within three days after the serving thereof as aforesaid (unlesse the Committment of

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the perſon aforeſaid were for treaſon or felony plainly expreſſed in the ſaid Warrant of Commitment) ſhall, at the charge of the party who requireth & procureth ſuch Writt, & upon ſecurity by his own bond given to pay the charge of carrying him back priſoner, if he ſhall be remanded by the Court or Judge to which he ſhall be brought, as in like caſe hath been uſed, make ſuch return of the ſaid Writt, as the ſaid Officer or Officers will ſtand and abide by, & bring or cauſe to be brought the body of the party ſo committed or reſtrained unto & before the Judges & Juſtices of the ſaid Court from whence the ſaid Writt ſhall iſſue, or unto & before ſuch other perſon or perſons before whom the ſaid Writt is made returnable, unleſſe the Commitment of the ſaid party be in any place above twenty miles diſtant from the place or places where ſuch Court or Judge is or ſhall be ſitting or reſiding; & if beyond the diſtance of twenty miles, & not above one hundred miles, then within the ſpace of ten days; & if beyond the diſtance of one hundred miles, then within the ſpace of twenty days after ſuch the delivery aforeſaid, & not longer. And if any perſon or perſons ſhall be committed or detained as aforeſaid, for any crime, unleſſe for treaſon or felony plainly expreſſed in the Warrant of Commitment, in the vacation time & out of Term, it ſhall & may be lawfull to & for the perſon & perſons ſo committed or detained, (other than perſons convicted, attainted, or in Execution by legal proceſſe,) by any one on his or their behalf, to appeal to any of his Maties Juſtices either of the one Bench or the other, or the Barons of the Exchequer of the Degree of the Coife, or the Maſter of the Rolls for the time being: And the ſaid Juſtices, Barons, Maſter of the Rolls or any of them, upon view of the Copy or Copies of the Warrant or Warrants of Commitment & Detainer, or otherwiſe upon oath made that ſuch Copy or Copies were denyed to be given by ſuch perſon or perſons in whoſe cuſtody the priſoner is detained, are hereby required to grant an *Habeas Corpus* to the Officer or Officers in whoſe cuſtody the perſon ſo committed or detained ſhall be returnable, *immediate* before ſuch Juſtice, Baron, or Maſter of the Rolls, or any other Juſtice or Baron of the Court out of which the Writt ſhall iſſue; & upon ſervice thereof as aforeſaid, the Officer or Officers his or their

under-Officers, under-Keepers or Deputy in or to whoſe cuſtody the perſon is ſo committed or detained as aforeſaid, ſhall bring him or them before ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, Barons, or Maſter of the Rolls aforeſaid, or any of them, with a return of the Writt within the times reſpectively before limitted: at which time the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices, Barons, or Maſter of the Rolls, or one of them ſhall diſcharge the ſaid perſon ſo committed from his impriſonment, taking his or their recognizance together with the recognizance of one ſurety in any ſumm according to their diſcretions, having regard to the quality of the priſoner, & nature of the offence, for his or their appearance in the Court of Kings Bench, or at the Aſſizes, Seſſions, or generall Gaol-delivery of & for ſuch County & place where the Committment was, or where the offence was committed, as the caſe ſhall require; & then ſhall certifie the ſaid Writt with the return thereof, & the ſaid recognizance & recognizances into the Court where ſuch appearance is to be made; unleſs it ſhall appear to the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices, Barons or Maſter of the Rolls, the perſon ſo committed is detained upon a legall proceſs out of any Court which hath Jurisdiction of criminall matters, or by ſome Warrant ſigned & ſealed with the hand & ſeal of any the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices, or Barons aforeſaid, or ſome Juſtice or Juſtices of the peace, for ſuch matters or offences for which by the law the priſoner it not baylable. And be it further Enacted, that if any Officer or Officers his or their under-Officers, under-Keepers or Deputies ſhall neglect or refuſe the returns aforeſaid within the time aforeſaid, or to bring the body of the perſon required, as aforeſaid by the ſaid Writt to be brought within the time & to the place aforeſaid, or upon Demand made by the priſoner or other perſon on his behalf, ſhall refuſe to deliver, or within the ſpace of twelve hours after Demand ſhall not deliver, to the perſon ſo demanding, a true Copy of the Warrant or Warrants of Committment and Detainer of ſuch priſoner which he and they are hereby required to deliver accordingly, all & every the head-Gaolers & Keepers of the priſon where the perſon is detained ſhall for the firſt offence forfeit to the priſoner or perſon grieved one hundred pounds, & for the ſecond offence the ſum of

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two hundred pounds, & likewiſe ſhall for the ſecond offence be *ipſo facto* diſabled to hold his office or any other office or employment whatſoever: the ſaid penalty of one hundred and two hundred pounds to be recovered by the priſoner, his Executor or Adminiſtrator by any action of debt, ſuit, bill, plaint, or Information in any of the Kings Courts at Weſtminſter, wherein no Eſſoyne, protection, or wager of law ſhall be admitted. And for the prevention of unjuſt vexation by reiterated Committments for the ſame offence, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, that no perſon or perſons which ſhall be delivered or ſet at large upon any *Habeas Corpus* aforeſaid, ſhall at any time hereafter be again impriſoned or committed for the ſame offence by any perſon or perſons whatſoever, other then by the legall order or proceſſe of ſuch Court wherein he or they ſhall be bound by recognizance to appear after his or their appearance there. And if any other perſon or perſons ſhall knowingly recommitt or impriſon or knowingly procure or cauſe to be recommitted or impriſoned for the ſame offence or pretended offence any perſon or perſons delivered or ſet at large as aforeſaid, or be knowingly ayding or aſſiſting therein, he & they ſhall forfeit to the priſoner or perſon griered two hundred pounds to be recovered in manner aforeſaid, & ſhall be *ipſo facto* disabled to hold any office or imployment whatſoever, any colourable pretence or variation in the Warrant or Warrants of Committment nothwithſtanding. Provided always that if any perſon or perſons ſhall be committed for high treaſon or felony plainly expreſſed in the Warrant of Committment, & ſhall not upon his prayer or petition in open Court to be made the firſt day of the Seſſions or generall Gaol-delivery, or ſix days before the end of the term to be brought to his tryall, be indicted the next term or ſeſſions or Generall Gaol-delivery after ſuch Commitment, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Judges of the Court of Kings Bench or the Juſtices of the ſeſſions or Generall Gaol-delivery where the perſon is ſo committed, upon motion to them made in Court the laſt Day of the Term, Seſſions, or generall Goal-delivery either by

the perſon committed or any one on his behalf, & they are hereby required to ſet at liberty the priſoner upon bayl, unleſſe it appear to the ſaid Judges or Juſtices, upon oath made, that the witneſſes for the King could not be produced the ſame term, ſeſſions or generall Gaol-delivery. And if any perſon or perſons committed as aforeſaid, upon his prayer or petition in open Court to be brought to his tryall as aforeſaid, ſhall not be indicted & tryed the ſecond term, ſeſſion, or generall Gaol-delivery after his Commitment, or upon his tryall ſhall be acquitted, he ſhall be abſolutely diſcharged from his imprisonment. Provided always, & be it Enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if any perſon or perſons ſubjects of this realm ſhall be committed to priſon in the Cuſtody of any Officer or Officers, unleſſe it be by *Habeas Corpus* or ſome other legall proceſſe iſſuing from one of his Maties Courts at Weſtminſter; And if any perſon or perſons ſhall after ſuch Commitment aforeſaid make out any ſuch Warrant or Warrants for ſuch removall aforeſaid, as well he that makes & ſigns the ſaid Warrant or Warrants, as the Officer or Officers that obeys the ſame, ſhall forfeit to the priſoner or perſon grieved one hundred pounds to be recovered in manner aforeſaid, & ſhall likewiſe be *ipſo facto* diſabled to hold any Office or employment whatſoever. Provided alſo & be it further Enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that it ſhall & may be lawfull to and for the party and partys ſo committed to move & obtain his *Habeas Corpus* as well out of the Court of Exchequer as out of the Courts of Kings Bench & Common Pleas, or either of them; & that if ſuch perſon or perſons, Judge or Judges, Baron or Barons for the time being of the Degree of the Coiſe in any of the Courts, or Maſter of the Rolls aforeſaid ſhall preſume to deny any Writt of *Habeas Corpus*, being moved for as aforeſaid, That then every ſuch perſon or perſons, Judge or Judges, Baron or Barons for the time being of the degree of the Coiſe in any of the Courts, or Maſter of the Rolls aforeſaid as ſhall preſume to deny any writt of *Habeas Corpus* being moved for as aforeſaid, that then every ſuch perſon & perſons, Judge & Judges, Baron & Barons, & Maſter of the Rolls aforeſaid ſhall forfeit one hundred pounds to the priſoner or perſon grieved to be recovered in manner aforeſaid. And be it Enacted & declared by the authority

thority aforesaid, that any *Habeas Corpus* according to the true intent & meaning of this Act, may be directed & shall run into any County Palatine, the Cinque Ports & members thereof, & other priviledged places within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, & Town of Berwick upon Tweed; any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided and be it Enacted that no person or persons shall be sued, impleaded, molested or troubled for any offence against this present act, unlesse the party supposed to have so offended shall be sued or impleaded for the same within two years at the most, after such time wherein the said offence shall be committed, or after the decease of the person imprisoned or his delivery out of prison.

An Act for a Test to distinguish between Protestants and Papists, and to prevent the further growth and encrease of Popish Recusants.

FOr the more effectuall suppressing of Popery in this Kingdom, and for the better & more speedy conviction of Popish Recusants within the same, Be it enacted by the Kings most excellent Matie, by & with the advice & consent of the Lords spirituall & temporall & the Commons in this present Parliament assembled & by the authority of the same, That the Justices of the Kings Bench and all Justices of assize & Gaol-delivery, & all Justices of peace in their open Quarter sessions of the peace within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, & Town of Berwick upon Tweed shall give in charge to their severall & respective Grand-Jurys diligently to inquire & present the names of all such persons being of the age of sixteen years & upwards as are suspected or reputed to be Papists or Popish Recusants, & that upon every such presentment, the said Justices of the Kings Bench, Justices of Assize & Gaol-delivery, & Justices of peace shall in open Court make Proclamation, by which it shall be commanded, that every person so presented as aforesaid shall personally appear the first Day of the next term, if presented by the Term, Grand-

Jury

Jury or at the next Assizes & generall Gaol-delivery, if presented by that Grand Jury, or at the next generall Quarter Sessions of the peace, if presented by that Grand Jury to be holden for the respective County, City, Division, limit or liberty, there to take and subscribe this following Declaration & renunciation, viz. I, A. B. do solemnly from my heart and in the presence of Almighty God, professe, testifie & declare, that I do not believe in my Conscience that the Church of Rome is the onely Catholique or universall Church of Christ, out of which there is no salvation, or that the Pope hath any Jurisdiction or supremacy over the Catholique Church in generall, or over my self in particular, or that it belongs to the said Church of Rome alone to judge of the true sence & Interpretation of the holy Scripture; Or that in the holy Sacrament of the Eucharist there is made a perfect change in the whole substance of the bread into Christs body, or of the whole substance of the wine into Christs blood, which Change the said Church of Rome calleth *transubstantiation*; Or that the Virgin Mary or any other Saint ought to be worshipped or prayed unto: And all these aforesaid doctrins & positions I do renounce and disclaim as false & erroneous, & contrary to the truth of Gods Word & Christian Religion: And I do make this recognition & acknowledgement truly plainly & sincerely upon the true faith of a Christian, so help me God. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if upon such first Day of the next term, or at such next Assizes or Generall Gaol-delivery, or at such next Quarter-sessions respectively to be holden as aforesaid, the same person so proclaimed shall not make appearance upon record, and in open Court take and subscribe the said Declaration & renunciation, then upon such default, such person so making default shall be adjudged a Popish Recusant convict to all intents and purposes whatsoever. And the said Justices are hereby impowred & enjoyned to administer the said Declaration & renunciation, & to enter upon record the said appearances & defaults accordingly. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Justices of the peace in every County, City, Division, limit, or liberty within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, & the town of Berwick upon Tweed or

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any two or more of them ſhall once in every year iſſue out their Warrants to the ſeverall Conſtables & Chuchwardens of every Pariſh, town, & Hamlet within their reſpective Juriſdictions, requiring them at a certain Day & place to be mentioned in ſuch Warrants (which Day ſhall always be appointed between the feaſts of Eaſter & whitſuntide) to preſent unto the ſaid Juſtices upon their oaths, which oaths the ſaid Juſtices or any two of them are hereby impowred to adminiſter, the Names, Sirnames, Additions & places of abode of all ſuch perſons of the age of ſixteen years & upwards as are inhabiting or reſiding within their ſeverall precincts who are ſuſpected or reputed to be Papiſts or Popiſh recuſants, which preſentments the ſaid Juſtices of the peace at the time & place appointed ſhall accept & receive without any fee, and the ſame preſentments the ſaid Juſtices of the peace at the next generall Quarter-ſeſſions to be holden for ſuch County, City, diviſion, limitt or liberty reſpectively ſhall deliver in open Court to the Clerk of the peace there to be recorded. And the Juſtices of the peace of the ſaid reſpective Countys, Citys, Diviſions, limitts or libertys in the ſame generall Quarter-ſeſſions wherein any ſuch preſentment ſhall be delivered ſhall cauſe like proclamation as aforeſaid to be made in open Court for the perſons ſo preſented to appear at the next generall Quarter-ſeſſions of the peace to be holden for the ſaid County, City, Diviſion or limitt reſpectively, then and there to take and ſubſcribe the ſaid declaration & renunciation, & if at ſuch next generall Quarter-ſeſſions to be holden as aforeſaid any ſuch perſon ſo proclaimed ſhall not make appearance upon record, & in open Court take & ſubſcribe the ſaid declaration & renunciation, then upon ſuch default recorded, ſuch perſon ſo making default ſhall be adjudged a Popiſh Recuſant convict to all intents & purpoſes whatſoever. And be it further Enacted, that if the Juſtices of the peace for any County, City, Diviſion, limitt or liberty, or two or more of them, ſhall not according to the true intent & meaning of this Act, iſſue out their Warrants to all Churchwardens & Conſtables requiring them to make their preſentments as aforeſaid, then every Juſtice of peace inhabiting & reſiding within ſuch County, City, Diviſion or liberty where ſuch Warrants ſhall not be iſſued out as aforeſaid, ſhall forfeit the ſum of ..... And if any ſuch Church-

warden or Conſtable ſhall refuſe or neglect to make ſuch preſentment, every ſuch Conſtable & Churchwarden for every ſuch offence ſhall forfeit the ſum of ..... And if the Clerk of the peace ſhall not duely record every ſuch preſentment, appearance and default, he ſhall forfeit for every ſuch offence the ſum of ..... one third part of all the ſaid forfeitures to be to the uſe of the poor, & the other two parts to ſuch perſon or perſons as ſhall ſue for the ſame in any Court of record by action Debt, Bill, Playnt or information, wherein no Eſſoign, protection or wager of law ſhall be allowed. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that every ſuch Conviction for Popiſh recuſants ſhall be eſtreated & certified by any two or more Juſtices before whom the record of ſuch conviction ſhall remain, into his Maties Court of Exchequer, before the end of the term next enſuing ſuch conviction, & that every ſuch Eſtreat & Certificate ſhall be there entred & enrolled, & proceſſe iſſued out thereupon according to the courſe of the Exchequer. Provided always & be it further Enacted, that if any perſon convict of Popiſh recuſancy as aforeſaid (or any other perſon that is now or ſhall be hereafter convicted of Popiſh recuſancy by any other way or means whatſoever) ſhall come before the Juſtices of the Kings Bench, Juſtices of Aſſize & Gaol-delivery, or before the Juſtices of the peace in their generall Quarter-ſeſſions for ſuch County, City, Diviſion, limitt or liberty reſpectively where ſuch perſon was convicted, & in open Court take & ſubſcribe the ſaid declaration & renunciation, ſuch Juſtices reſpectively ſhall forthwith record ſuch ſubmiſſion, & certifie the ſame into his Maties Court of Exchequer; & then upon ſuch Certificate recorded in the ſaid Court, ſuch perſons ſo ſubmitting & certified ſhall, paying the Informer his fees, for the future be freed & diſcharged of & from all ſeizures, pendleys & loſſes which the ſaid perſon might otherwiſe ſuſteyn & bear for or by reaſon of any ſuch perſons conviction by this Act. And be it further Enacted, that no *Certiorari* ſhall upon any pretence or ſuggeſtion whatſoever be granted by his Maties Court of Kings Bench, or by any other of his Maties Courts, to remove any ſuch preſentment or conviction for Popiſh recuſancy as aforeſaid, neither ſhall any ſuch preſentment or conviction or any thing touching the ſame be reverſed for any

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error or any other matter or thing whatſoever: But every ſuch preſentment & conviction ſhall remain & be in good force, untill ſuch perſon ſhall ſubmitt & take & ſubſcribe the declaration & renunciation aforeſaid.

An Act for the better prevention of illegall exaction of money from the Subject.

Whereas by the Laws of this Realm your Maties Subjects have inherited, & ought to inherit this freedom, that they ſhould not be compelled to contribute to, or make, or yield or pay any gift, Loan, Benevolence, Aid, Supply, Tax, Tollage or ſuch like Charge, without Common conſent & grant thereof made in & by Act of Parliament, nor for any longer time then the ſame ſhall be granted by ſuch Act or Acts of Parliament reſpectively: We therefore your Maties moſt dutifull & loyall Subjects the Lords Spirituall & Temporall & Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled do, for the better prevention of illegall exaction of money from the ſubjects, humbly pray, that it may be declared & Enacted; And be it declared & Enacted by the Kings moſt Excellent Matie, by & with the advice & conſent of the Lords ſpirituall & temporall & Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by Authority of the ſame, That no ſubject of the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, or town of Berwick upon Tweed ſhall, may, or ought to be by any ways or means whatſoever compelled or inforced to make, yeild, pay, or contribute to any ſuch Gift, Loan, Benevolence, Aid, ſupply, impoſition, Tollage, tax, or ſuch like charge without Common conſent by Act of Parliament, nor in any other manner, nor for any longer time then is or ſhall be mentioned & expreſſed in & by ſuch Act or Acts of Parliament reſpectively, And that all Commiſſions, Proclamations, Declarations, Warrants, Orders, Privy Seals, & Commands from the King his heirs or ſucceſſors or any of them, or from any other perſon or perſons whatſoever in authority, or deriving or pretending authority by, from, or under him, them, or any of them, for the impoſing, aſſeſſing, raiſing, or collecting, or gathering of any ſuch Gift, Loan, Benevolence,

Aid, ſupply, impoſition, Tollage, Tax, or ſuch like charge as aforeſaid, not granted & impoſed by Act of Parliament, or in any other manner, or for any longer time then ſuch Gift, Loan, Benevolence, Aid, ſupply, impoſition, Tollage, Tax or ſuch like charge as aforeſaid, is, are, or ſhall be in & by ſuch Act or Acts of Parliament reſpectively mentioned & expreſſed to be granted, are & ſhall be & ſo are hereby declared & Enacted to be illegall & utterly void & of none effect. And be it further declared & Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it is & ſhall be lawfull to & for every Subject within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, & Town of Berwick upon Tweed to refuſe or deny payment of any ſuch Gift, Loan, Benevolence, Aid, ſupply, impoſition, Tollage, Tax or ſuch like charge as aforeſaid not granted by Common conſent & Act of Parliament, or which ſhall be required to be paid for any longer time then the ſame is or ſhall be granted & impoſed by ſuch Act or Acts of Parliament reſpectively. And that no perſon or perſons ſhall, may, or ought to be forced to give attendance before the King or his Privy Counſell, or be confined, or otherwiſe moleſted or diſquieted either in his perſon, Goods, or Eſtate for or concerning the ſame, or for ſuch refuſall or denyall. And be it further declared and Enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if any perſon or perſons whatſoever either with or without or by Colour or pretext of any Commiſſion, Proclamation, Declaration, Warrant, Order, Privy Seal, or Command whatſoever of or from the King his heirs or ſucceſſors or any of them ſhall knowingly and wilfully preſume to continue, aſſeſſe, raiſe, collect, or gather, or ſhall, aſſeſſe, raiſe, collect or gather or grant any Warrant or order to aſſeſſe, raiſe, collect, or gather, or to compell or conſtrain any Subject of the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, or Town of Barwick upon Tweed, to make, yeild, pay or contribute to the King, his heirs or ſucceſſors or any of them, or to any other perſon or perſons whatſoever to the uſe or to the pretended uſe of the King his heirs or ſucceſſors or any of them, or for any other publick uſe whatſoever, any land-tax or monethly Aſſeſſment, any dutys or ſubſidys of Tonnage & poundage, any impoſitions upon proceedings at law, any impoſitions or Exciſe upon ale, beer, or other liquors, any impoſition for Coynage, or any of them, for any longer or other Term or time than

than the ſame or any of them are reſpectively granted by Act or Acts of Parliament, every perſon and perſons that ſhall order or aſſiſt, raiſe, collect or gather, or ſhall grant any ſuch Warrant or Order, or compell or conſtrain as aforeſaid, being thereof legally convicted upon tryall by the oath of two or more credible witneſſes, or otherwiſe thereof legally convicted or attainted by due courſe of law, ſhall be deemed & adjudged to be guilty of high treaſon, & ſhall ſuffer pains of death, & forfeit as in caſes of high treaſon. And be it further declared & Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, that in caſe any perſon or perſons whatſoever ſhall by force of Arms, or by impriſonment, or by diſtreſſe, or by quartering of ſouldiers, or by any other ways of violence or conſtraint, compell or enforce the payment of any land-tax or monethly aſſeſsment, any dutys or ſubſidys, or Tonnage & poundage, any Impoſitions upon proceedings at law, any Impoſitions or Exciſe upon Ale, Beer, or other liquors, any Impoſitions for Coynage, or any of them, for any longer or other term or time than the ſame or any of them are reſpectively granted by Act or Acts of Parliament, that then it ſhal be lawfull for every ſuch perſon and perſons ſo compelled or inforced to make payment, or of whom the ſame or any of them ſhall be exacted, to call to his and their Aid, releif, and aſſiſtance any Sherriff, Major, Juſtice, or Juſtices of the peace, or Conſtable, or any other Officers and Miniſters of Juſtice, who are hereby authorized, enjoyned and required to be aiding and aſſiſting with their power and authority to ſeiz and apprehend all and every ſuch perſon and perſons as ſhall by force of Arms or otherwiſe as aforeſaid compell, exact, or enforce the payment of the ſame, or any of them, and ſuch perſon and perſons ſo ſeized and apprehended to committ to the Common Gaol as Guilty of high treaſon, to be proſecuted accordingly. And to the intent that all pretence of ignorance of this Act may be taken away, Be it further Enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that from and after the firſt Day of Michaelmas Term which ſhall be in the year of our Lord God one thouſand ſix hundred ſeaventy and four, this Act ſhall be publickly and openly given in charge at every Aſſizes, and generall Quarter-Seſſions which ſhall be held for any County, City, or town Corporate within

the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, & town of Berwick upon Tweed; & ſhall on or before the ſaid firſt Day of Michaelmas Term be inrolled in the ſeverall & reſpective Courts of Chancery, Kings Bench, Common Pleas, & Exchequer, there to remain upon Record: & the Lord Chancellour or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England for the time being, and the Chief Juſtices, & other Judges of the Courts of Kings Bench, & Common Pleas reſpectively, & the Chief Baron & other Barons of the Exchequer are hereby ſtrictly enjoyned and required to cauſe the ſame to be truly and fairly enrolled in the ſeverall & reſpective Courts aforeſaid, according to the true intent and meaning of this Act.

An Act to prevent Impriſonment of the Subject in illegal & Secret Priſons, or places beyond the Seas.

BE it Declared & Enacted by the Kings moſt Excellent Matie, by & with the advice & conſent of the Lords ſpirituall & temporall, & Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, & by authority of the ſame, That no one of your Maties ſubjects that now is, or hereafter ſhall be an Inhabitant of this realm of England, Dominion of Wales, or town of Berwick upon Tweed, ſhall or may be ſent priſoner into Scotland, Ireland, Jerſey, Guernſey, or any parts or places beyond the ſeas, or any Iſlands either within or without your Maties Dominions: And that every impriſonment contrary to this Act, is, & ſhall be, & ſo is hereby declared & judged to be illegall. And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if any one of your Maties ſubjects who now is or hereafter ſhall be reſiant or inhabiting within this realm of England, Dominion of Wales, or town of Berwick upon Tweed ſhall be impriſoned contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, every ſuch perſon & perſons ſo impriſoned ſhall & may for every ſuch impriſonment maintain an Action or Actions of falſe impriſonment in any of your Maties Courts of Record againſt the perſon or perſons by whom he ſhall be committed, or detained, or impriſoned, or tranſported contrary to the meaning of

of this Act, & againſt all or any perſon or perſons that ſhall be adviſing, contriving, aiding or aſſiſting in the ſame, or any of them, & the Plaintiff in every ſuch Action ſhall have Judgement to recover his treble Coſts and Damages, which Damages ſo to be given ſhall not be leſs then 500. pounds. In which Action no delay, Injunction, protection or priviledge whatſoever ſhall be allowed. And the perſon & perſons ſo committing or impriſoning or detaining or adviſing or contriving or aiding or aſſiſting therein being thereof convicted or found guilty by Indictment, or Information, or any other lawfull way or means, either at the ſuit of the Kings Matie, or of the party grieved, ſhall immediately from and after ſuch conviction be *ipſo facto* held & taken to all intents & purpoſes utterly diſabled in law & uncapable to bear any office of truſt or profit, & ſhall ſtand & be diſabled to make any Gift, Grant, Conveyance, or other diſpoſall of any of his lands, tenements, hereditaments, Goods or Chattells, or to take any benefit of any Gift, Conveyance or legacy to his own uſe. Provided always, & it is hereby declared, that if any perſon or perſons law ully convicted of felony within Clergy do conſent to be tranſported beyond the ſeas, or if any perſon or perſons attainted of felony ſhall obtain or accept of his Maties pardon under condition of tranſportation beyond the ſeas, That ſuch perſon and perſons may be tranſported into any parts beyond the ſeas, this Act or any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding. Provided alſo, & it is hereby declared, that nothing in this Act contained ſhall be deemed, conſtrued or taken to extend to the impriſonment of any perſon before the firſt Day of this preſent Seſſion of Parliament, or to any thing adviſed, procured, or otherwiſe done relating to ſuch impriſonment, any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithſtanding. Provided that if any perſon or perſons ſhall commit any offence in Scotland or Ireland or any of your Maties Iſlands or forreign plantations where he ought to be tryed for ſuch offence, it ſhall and may be lawfull for the Juſtices of the Kings Bench to ſend ſuch perſon or perſons to ſuch place, there to receive ſuch tryall, any thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithſtanding.

Si populus nihil obtineat, juſte dolet.

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the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, & town of Berwick upon Tweed; & ſhall on or before the ſaid firſt Day of Michaelmas Term be inrolled in the ſeverall & reſpective Courts of Chancery, Kings Bench, Common Pleas, & Exchequer, there to remain upon Record: & the Lord Chancellour or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England for the time being, and the Chief Juſtices, & other Judges of the Courts of Kings Bench, & Common Pleas reſpectively, & the Chief Baron & other Barons of the Exchequer are hereby ſtrictly enjoyned and required to cauſe the ſame to be truly and fairly enrolled in the ſeverall & reſpective Courts aforeſaid, according to the true intent and meaning of this Act.

An Act to prevent Impriſonment of the Subject in illegal & Secret Priſons, or places beyond the Seas.

BE it Declared & Enacted by the Kings moſt Excellent Matie, by & with the advice & conſent of the Lords ſpirituall & temporall, & Commons in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, & by authority of the ſame, That no one of your Maties ſubjects that now is, or hereafter ſhall be an Inhabitant of this realm of England, Dominion of Wales, or town of Berwick upon Tweed, ſhall or may be ſent priſoner into Scotland, Ireland, Jerſey, Guernſey, or any parts or places beyond the ſeas, or any Iſlands either within or without your Maties Dominions: And that every impriſonment contrary to this Act, is, & ſhall be, & ſo is hereby declared & judged to be illegall. And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that if any one of your Maties ſubjects who now is or hereafter ſhall be reſiant or inhabiting within this realm of England, Dominion of Wales, or town of Berwick upon Tweed ſhall be impriſoned contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, every ſuch perſon & perſons ſo impriſoned ſhall & may for every ſuch impriſonment maintain an Action or Actions of falſe impriſonment in any of your Maties Courts of Record againſt the perſon or perſons by whom he ſhall be committed, or detained, or impriſoned, or tranſported contrary to the meaning of

of this Act, & againſt all or any perſon or perſons that ſhall be adviſing, contriving, aiding or aſſiſting in the ſame, or any of them, & the Plaintiff in every ſuch Action ſhall have Judgement to recover his treble Coſts and Damages, which Damages ſo to be given ſhall not be leſs then 500. pounds. In which Action no delay, Injunction, protection or priviledge whatſoever ſhall be allowed. And the perſon & perſons ſo committing or impriſoning or detaining or adviſing or contriving or aiding or aſſiſting therein being thereof convicted or found guilty by Indictment, or Information, or any other lawfull way or means, either at the ſuit of the Kings Matie, or of the party grieved, ſhall immediately from and after ſuch conviction be *ipſo facto* held & taken to all intents & purpoſes utterly diſabled in law & uncapable to bear any office of truſt or profit, & ſhall ſtand & be diſabled to make any Gift, Grant, Conveyance, or other diſpoſall of any of his lands, tenements, hereditaments, Goods or Chattells, or to take any benefit of any Gift, Conveyance or legacy to his own uſe. Provided always, & it is hereby declared, that if any perſon or perſons law fully convicted of felony within Clergy do conſent to be tranſported beyond the ſeas, or if any perſon or perſons attainted of felony ſhall obtain or accept of his Maties pardon under condition of tranſportation beyond the ſeas, That ſuch perſon and perſons may be tranſported into any parts beyond the ſeas, this Act or any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding. Provided alſo, & it is hereby declared, that nothing in this Act contained ſhall be deemed, conſtrued or taken to extend to the impriſonment of any perſon before the firſt Day of this preſent Seſſion of Parliament, or to any thing adviſed, procured, or otherwiſe done relating to ſuch impriſonment, any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithſtanding. Provided that if any perſon or perſons ſhall commit any offence in Scotland or Ireland or any of your Maties Iſlands or forreign plantations where he ought to be tryed for ſuch offence, it ſhall and may be lawfull for the Juſtices of the Kings Bench to ſend ſuch perſon or perſons to ſuch place, there to receive ſuch tryall, any thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithſtanding.

Si populus nihil obtineat, juſte dolet.

COUR-

Courteous Reader,

HAving given you a faithfull *Narrative* of the proceedings of the *House of Commons* this laſt Seſſion, it will not be improper to enquire into the Cauſes of the *Prorogation*, which has made abortive all thoſe wiſe and healing Councels which this languiſhing Nation has ſo long groaned for, and without which (according to the opinion and judgement of her wiſeſt and beſt affected Counſellours and Patriots) ſhe cannot long ſubſiſt.

Let us therefore in the firſt place conſider his gracious Majeſties Speech, and try what Reaſons may be extracted from it to ſatisfy the People, that this Prorogation was more reaſonable, juſt, and neceſſary than the former Prorogations.

In the beginning of the Kings Speech he tells the Parliament, *That the Peace was ratifyed &c.* I wonder by what illumination his ſacred Majeſty knew this! certainly it muſt be ſome Correſpondent of another world that revealed this ſecret of State to him whilſt he was ſpeaking to the Parliament: for the ſame day (& almoſt the ſame minute) that his ſacred Majeſty was telling this good news to the Houſes, I ſay, then at that time the States of the United Netherlands were ratifying the Peace. In the next place his Majeſty is pleaſed to tell the Parliament, *That the Spring was coming on ſo faſt &c.* This, I muſt confeſſe, was neither Reaſon nor Inſpiration; But they muſt be prorogued; and whoſoever is not ſatisfyed with his ſacred Majeſties Reaſons and Revelations, let him read on.

I preſume all ſober men of unbyaſſed Judgements look upon the Kings Speech but as a flouriſh of Witt and Eloquence, which ſome of the Cabal had put into his mouth, hoping thereby to veyl their deſigns from the eyes of all true Engliſh men: but alas, poor men, they have deceived no body but themſelves; their ſecret Counſels have taken air, and thoſe dark mines, which they have been ſo long a digging, are at length diſcovered; & for all their arts, the Parliament has had time enough to give the Nation notice of their Intentions and our Dangers.

My purpoſe is with all brevity and Candour to offer three things to your conſideration, & ſubmit the truth of them to the Cenſure of

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all true English men, wishing to stand or fall by the verity or falshood of what I shall say, & protesting before God the great Judge of our thoughts and actions, that I intend nothing but *the Truth*, and that no private respect of malice or Revenge, but a reall and unfeigned love to my dear Countrey is that which has moved and perswaded me to publish these Matters.

THE REASONS OF THIS PROROGATION. THE PERSONS THAT CAUSED IT. THE TIME WHEN IT WAS DONE.

The Reasons.

1. To prevent the passing the Bill against Popish Recusants and all those other good Bills into *Acts*.

2. To prevent the Parliaments inspecting the present Popish State and dangerous condition of Ireland.

3. To prevent the Parliaments taking any further notice of the *Duke of Yorks* obstinate temerity in marrying a Papist, notwithstanding the House of Commons had addressed to his Majesty that the said Duke might not marry the Princesse of *Modena* or any other Papist.

4. For fear the Parliament should addresse to the King, immediately to recall those *English Forces* which are at present in the *French Kings* service, and thereby defeat the designs of THOSE who intended upon the first opportunity (and as soon as the French King could spare so many men) to land an Army of French upon us, under the pretence and disguise of calling the English Forces home, and thereby to plant the Popish superstition in this Kingdom, and to make his Majesty as absolute over his Subjects as the *French King* is over his *Slaves*.

5. The right understanding and harmonious concord between the two Houses of Parliament was very unpleasing to those who desired to be fishing in troubled waters, & by raising misunderstandings and jealousies between the two Houses, hoped to advance the Prerogative, & depresse the liberty of the Subject.

6. The Danger of that right trusty and well-beloved brace of *Ca-*

baliſts, Arlington, & *Lauderdail*, men ſo percious in the eyes of his Maty, that he chooſeth rather to looſe the Hearts and affections of his three Kingdoms, than to part with thoſe two honeſt Men; you are to take notice, that the Committee appointed to examine the Truth of the Articles againſt *Arlington* in order to his Impeachment, had the very day before the Prorogation put matters into ſuch a forwardneſſe, that a little time would have diſcovered what ſort of perſon *Arlington* is, and has been; & this being forſeen, that it was impoſſible for him to avoid the ſtroke of Juſtice, if the Parliament ſhould continue, he uſed all his intereſt to procure this Prorogation.

8. Laſtly, the Houſe of Commons made not ſo much haſt to give money as formerly, which the Court thinks their duty, and the onely thing they are fit for to meet and conſult about, and therefore they never adviſe with them but in order to milk their Purſes.

The Perſons that adviſed and contrived this Prorogation.

DUKE OF YORK.
LORD ARUNDEL OF WARDER (THE POPES NUNCIO.)
EARL OF ARLINGTON.
LORD TREASURER
EARL OF ANGLESEY.
DUTCHESSE OF PORTSMOUTH.
LORD KEEPER.

Perhaps ſome will expect that I ſhould relate the means uſed by ſome of this *Cabal* to prevail upon his Maty the night before the Prorogation: but let them that expect this, know, that Truth ſometimes ought to give place to modeſty; I ſhall therefore draw a curtain before that part of the ſtory, becauſe we ought not to diſcover our *Fathers Nakedneſſe.*

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The time when it was done.

Before his Maty knew the peace between England and the United Provinces was mutually ratifyed; for how could it be known, when it was ratifyed that very day that the Parliament was prorogued? What if the *States* had happened to deferre the *Ratification*, and in the interim heard the King had prorogued his Parliament? I fear our caſe had been litle better than that of the Sheep, who were perſwaded to ſend home their faithfull friends, the Doggs, becauſe they were in Treaty with the Wolves; you know what followed, I need not make an application; but I cannot but obſerve from this, That our Statesmen think a Parliament the worſt of Evils.

Prorogued in ſuch a winterly ſeaſon, That the very extremity of the weather, & the badneſſe of the ways detained them a month in London after the Prorogation.

Before the Grievances of the Commonwealth were redreſſed, and thoſe good and wholeſome Bills (the proper balſam for our wounds) prepared for the ſuppreſion of Popery, and eſtabliſhment of our Religion and Liberties, were *Enacted*: Whereas they were all of them in ſo great a forwardneſſe, that if the Parliament had been permitted to ſit but one fortnight longer, all thoſe Bills would have been ready for the *Royall Aſſent*, and in paſſing them into Laws, his Maty would have enflamed all mens hearts with Love and Gratitude towards him, to the unſpeakable joy and comfort of all good men, and to the Terrour and aſtoniſhment of his Enemies.

And now conſidering the true State of affairs, can any true Engliſhman without grief and ſorrow reflect on thoſe perſons, who by their powerfull interpoſition between his Maty and his Parliament, have Eclipſed that Royall Love which has hitherto ſo graciouſly ſhone forth upon theſe Kingdoms? Perſons that I know not in what age or ſtory to parallel, unleſſe I ſhould have recourſe to *Rehoboams* Councellours; Men that intend nothing but Extortion, Rapine and Oppreſſion, who know they cannot reſt ſecure in their Impieties, if his Maty ſhould hearken to the voice of his wiſe and faithfull Grand Councel; and therefore they apply themſelvs wholly to the ſubverſion of Parliaments, and conſequently to the ruine and deſtruction of their Native Countrey.

These are those *Nahashes* that *Will have no Peace* nor make no Covenant with the People, unlesse they will let them thrust out their *Right Eyes (the Parliament)* and bring shame upon all Israel: but I hope, God will laugh them to scorn, & in his great mercy preserve this poor afflicted Land, notwithstanding the devices of Rome & Hell, who leave no methods nor arts unpractised, to make this our dear Countrey once more welter in her own blood.

I hope you will pardon my omission, in not printing the votes and Resolves of the *Right honourable the House of Peers*, whose noble endeavours this last session highly deserve to be published, that all good Englishmen might know how much they are indebted to that pious and illustrious Assembly. But I could not with all my endeavours get a true Journal of their proceedings, and I was afraid to misreport the grave Councels of that Honourable Court; therefore I thought it better altogether to be silent, than to erre in the Relation of matters of such high Importance.

Farewell.

THE END.

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